

distinct calcified milk-teeth, as shown in the accompanying drawing (fig. p. 338). Both above and below they lie in the groove on the outer side between the uncut pm.⁴ and m.¹, their summits being slightly above the level of these teeth, but yet not projecting above the gum. They are each about 4 millim. in length, the upper one with a conical root and thickened crown about 2 millim. in diameter, while the lower one is slenderer and has a proportionally longer root and smaller crown.

It is quite evident that these teeth never become functional, but are absorbed long before the animal is old enough to be able to use them, and in all probability they never cut the gum.

The discovery of milk-teeth in the Koala is of considerable interest when viewed in relation to their comparatively long persistence in the Phalangers on the one hand, and their entire absence, so far as is yet known, in the Wombats on the other, the Koala presenting in this, as in so many other characters, an intermediate condition between the two.

In this connection, however, it may be noted that throughout the Mammalia rootless-toothed animals do not have the same need of a functional milk-dentition as do rooted-toothed ones, owing to the manner in which the ever growing teeth are able to increase in size *pari passu* with the growth of the animal. No better example of this can be quoted than the case of the allied Rodent genera *Cavia* and *Dasyprocta*, the first having rootless premolars, whose milk-teeth are absorbed before birth, and the second having rooted premolars preceded by well-developed and long-persistent milk-teeth.

The bearing of this rule on our present subject is evident; for while the entire absence of milk-teeth was quite to be expected in the case of the rootless-toothed Wombats, their extreme state of reduction in the Koala is a most surprising fact, especially as there are in the latter animal no anterior premolars to make up during youth for the absence of milk-teeth, as there are in the Thylacine, in which a similar reduction of the milk-dentition has taken place.

5. On a new Gecko, of the Genus *Chondrodactylus*, from the Kalahari Desert. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.Z.S.

[Received March 3, 1887.]

Mr. J. J. Weir, F.Z.S., has handed over to me two small Lizards from the Kalahari, to be presented to the Natural History Museum in case they should prove of interest. Although unfortunately in a dry state, having been pinned in an insect-box, they are in comparatively good condition. One belongs to the well-known *Eremias lugubris*, Smith, the other represents a new Gecko of the genus *Chondrodactylus*, Peters, of which a single species was known, *C. angulifer*, Peters, also from South Africa. The discovery of a second species is therefore of great interest, and I have much pleasure in connecting with it the name of Mr. Weir.

CHONDRODACTYLUS WEIRI, sp. nov.

Distinguished from its ally in the following points:—Tubercles on the supraorbital edge scarcely enlarged, separated from those on the other side by three series of tubercles in the middle; the width of the interorbital space equals quite one half of the vertical diameter of the orbit. Enlarged dorsal tubercles larger, more strongly keeled, subtrihedral. Ventral scales much larger; 6 or 7, on the middle of the belly, correspond to the horizontal diameter of the eye (instead of 11 or 12 in *C. angulifer*). Coloration very similar to that of the adult *C. angulifer*, i. e. with a blackish crescentic band, concavity forwards, extending from shoulder to shoulder, and pairs of round whitish spots on the back. The unique specimen measures 95 millim., in which the tail enters for 40.

April 5, 1887.

Prof. W. H. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1887:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March was 76. Of these 22 were by birth, 43 by presentation, 6 by purchase, 1 by exchange, and 4 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 94.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. Two Long-tailed Grass-Finches (*Poëphila acuticauda*), from Derby, King Sound, N.W. Australia, presented to the Collection by Mr. Walter Burton, F.Z.S., March 18. These are the first examples of this elegant little Grass-Finch which have been received by the Society.

2. A Fisk's Snake (*Lamprophis fiskii*) and a Narrow-headed Toad (*Bufo angusticeps*), from South Africa, presented to the Society by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, and received 24th March. Both of these are new to the Society's Collection, and Fisk's Snake, being new to science, has been named by Mr. Boulenger after its donor.

I also wish to call attention to the fact that Sir Walter Buller has presented to the Society the female Huia-bird (*Heteralocha gouldi*) which he deposited in the Society's Gardens on the 22nd April last year, and that he hopes to be able to obtain for us a companion of the male sex. The female bird in the Gardens is now in good health and condition.

The following extracts were read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by the Rev. Geo. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S., dated Capetown, March 9, 1887:—

“The annexed anecdote of a Mouse¹ and a Ringhals Snake (*Sepedon*

¹ [In a subsequent letter Mr. Fisk states that the Mouse was believed to be a specimen of *Dendromys melanotis*.—P. L. S.]